

MI Child Support Formula - Child Support Guidelines Comment

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Date: 6/18/2003 12:01 PM
Subject: Child Support Guidelines Comment

For all practical purposes, the current guidelines are very unbalanced in favor of the custodial parent.

I am the step mother of a child and I had twins seven months ago. His father and I supply a complete home for Justin, fully stocked with toys, clothes, a bike, etc. We feel that this is healthier for the child to not have to pack and unpack for every parenting time. If we did not supply an appropriate space for him, the court would take away overnights; if we did not have things for him to do and play with, he would not enjoy his time at our house. He has more at our house than at his mother's. We have since curtailed all vacations and spending.

His mother remarried 2 weeks after the 6 month long divorce (if that tells you anything) and has 3 more children and she gets to stay home and also get a credit for those children. Her husband makes twice what my husband makes.

We have Justin for 4 weeks in the summer, one night a week, shared vacations and every other weekend. The 50% abatement does not even come close to what it costs us to make Justin feel like a part of our family.

Our family suffers a great deal and are treated as second rate because of the operations and biases of the courts. My twins will not have much until my step son reaches the age of majority and we are relieved of the support payments.

My twins are clothed from garage sales and goodwill and I go to the pediatrician and beg for formula to feed them. My daughter had colic and I could not even afford to buy her the expensive formula all the time so she would not have a sore stomach. She had to be sick and in pain because we could not afford the proper formula all the time. I had to add extra water to make their formula stretch and add cereal so they would not be as hungry.

Justin is 11 and his siblings are younger. We pay and she stays home with her young children and I get to leave my babies every day and work 45 hours a week to help support our household.

I know many fathers who simply throw in the towel on their children because they are so frustrated with the support guidelines and from being bullied around. They are embarrassed and ANGRY that they cannot afford to do anything with their kids while their ex collects checks and lives a life of luxury. Many fathers would love to be a 100% participant in their child's life, but simply cannot due to the unfairness of the Court and guidelines.

I worked in the Family Division of the court, I know what happens.

Please change these guidelines so second families have a chance too. My babies deserve a

life too.

Thanks